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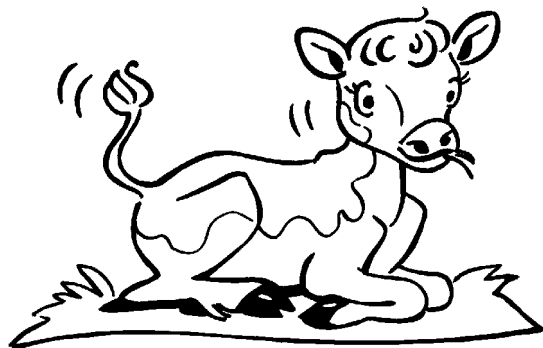


**Tommy Tales are downloadable and printable
books only available on the Internet
from the following Web sites:
www.learningpage.com
www.readinga-z.com**

**Tommy Tales feature the lovable rascal
Tommy Tomkins and his friends.**

**Supporting material is available on the
Learning Page Web site, including
teaching notes, worksheets, and fact files.**

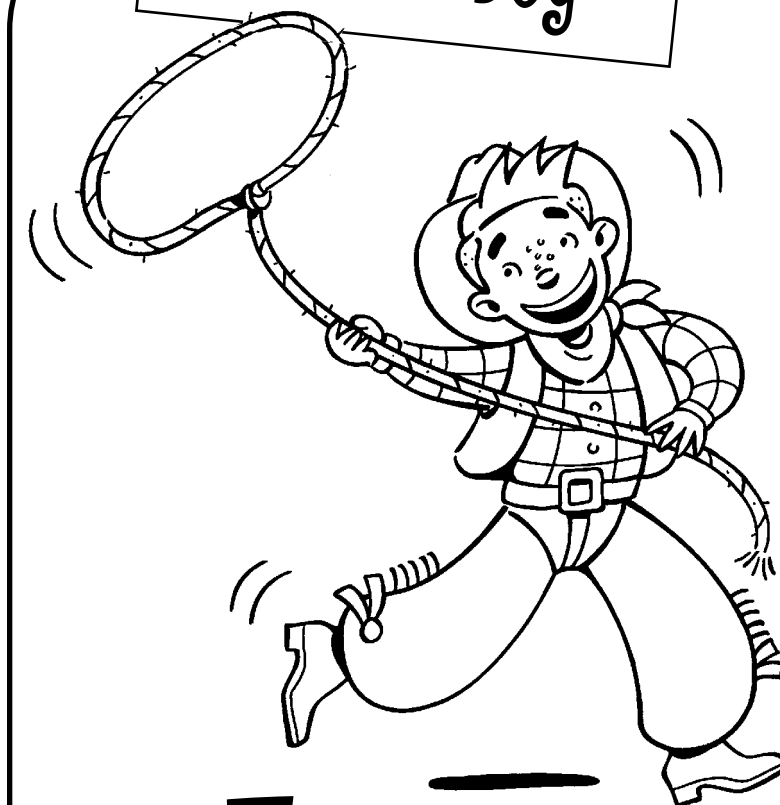
**Look for the next Tommy Tales adventure—
coming soon from Learning Page.**



BOOK 17



**Tommy
the Cowboy**



**Tommy
Tales**

Tommy and his friends were having a picnic. They were in Arizona. RK-5 had taken them back in time to 1891.

Red Deer, a Native American boy, had made friends with them.

They were just finishing eating when they heard a noise like thunder. Red Deer jumped up and told Tommy to follow him. They scrambled down the rocky hill. At the bottom of the hill, two horses were tied to a tree.



“Now that everyone has gone, you can take us back,” Kim said to RK-5.

“And remember to take us back to 2002,” added Lucy.

There was a flash of light and a cloud of blue smoke. When the smoke had cleared, they were back at the park and back in 2002.



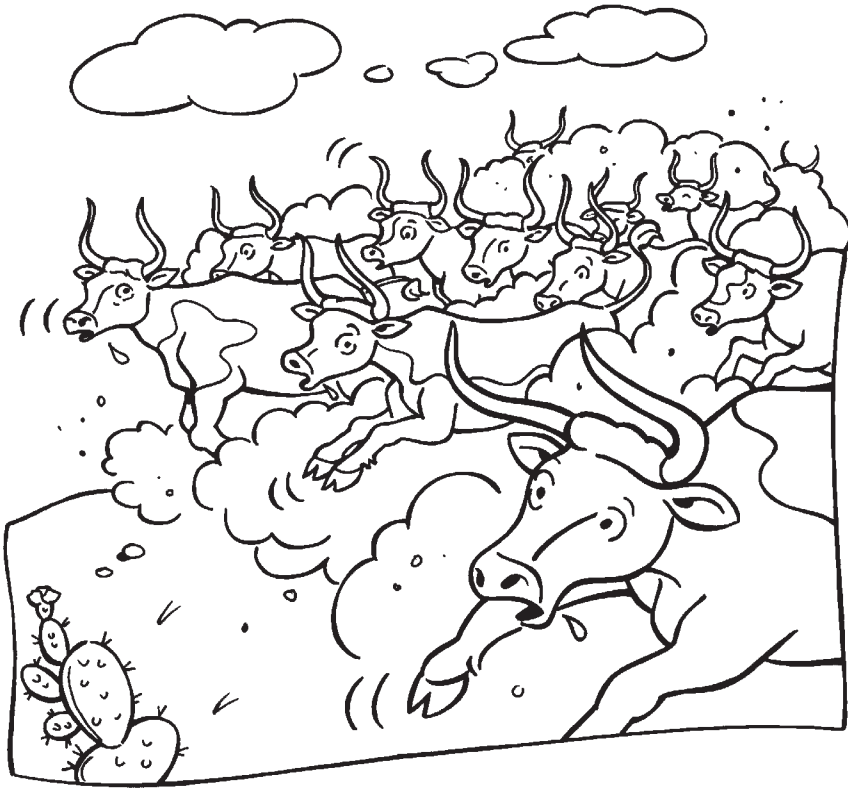
The children waved to Mrs. James and Glen. Then they set off with Red Deer. Halfway to the canyon, Red Deer said goodbye. He took his horses and headed for home.



Red Deer jumped on one of the horses. He told Tommy to get on the other horse. Bongo jumped on behind Tommy.

The horses galloped off. Tommy asked RK-5 what was happening.





“Red Deer says ‘Many cows are running.’
That means there’s a stampede,” said RK-5.

Tommy soon saw the stampeding cattle.
The cows were running very fast.
There was dust everywhere.

Tommy and Red Deer reached the leading
cows. Red Deer showed Tommy where
to ride.



After dinner, the children thanked Mrs.
James and said it was time for them to
leave. Mrs. James wanted to take them
to the other side of the canyon in her
wagon. Tommy told her that they preferred
to walk.

“We need the exercise after such a big
dinner,” said Tommy.

"And Mr. James teaches him all about work on the ranch," added Mrs. James.

"I wish I could live on a ranch instead of going to school," said Andy.

"I wish I could go to school and meet other kids. It's hard work here on the ranch," said Glen.



Taffy ran alongside the cows. He helped Tommy control the cows in the front. Bongo jumped off the horse onto the back of a big, brown cow. Red Deer then skillfully guided the cows into a narrow canyon. The rest of the herd followed. The cows had to slow down because the canyon was so narrow.



The herd reached the far end of the canyon. They were walking, not running.

At the other side of the canyon was a ranch. The two boys guided the cows into pens near the ranch house. The cows had calmed down quite a bit.

The door of the ranch house opened. The rancher's wife ran out of the house to thank them.



"We could have lost our herd of cattle without the bravery of Tommy and Red Deer," said Mrs. James.

Everyone gave them a big cheer.

"Where does Glen go to school?" asked Sam.

"I don't go to school. There's no school around here for miles," said Glen. "Mom teaches me all I need to know."

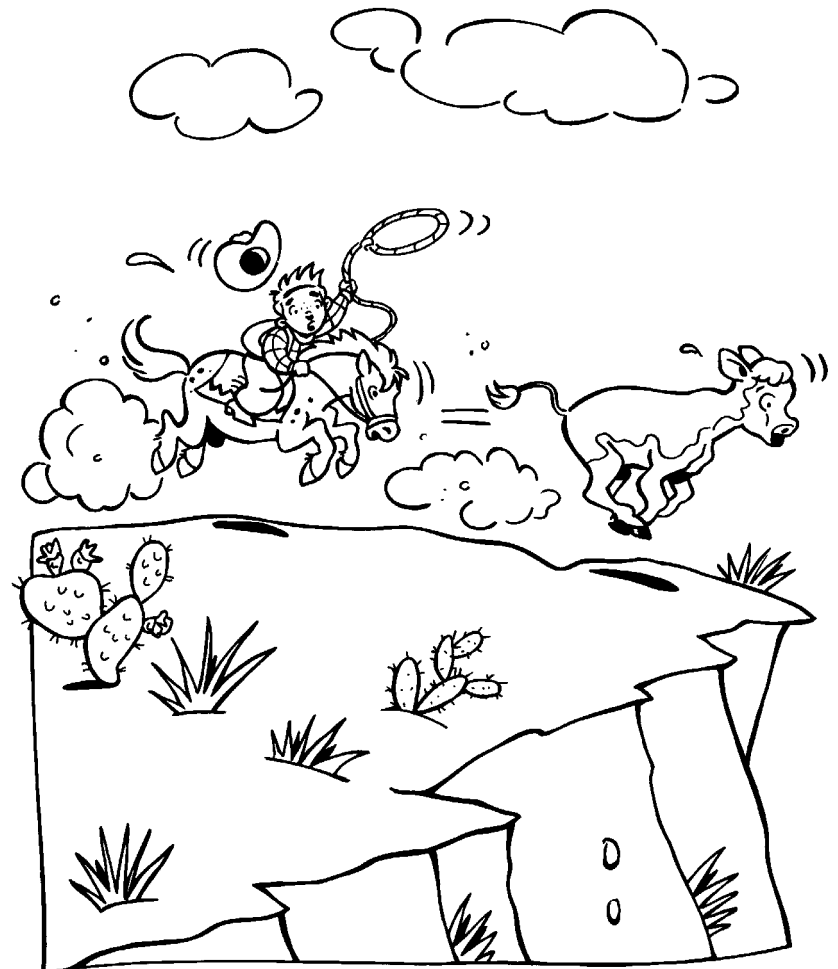




At dinner, Tommy's friends heard all about his adventure as a real cowboy.

Mrs. James told them that her husband and the ranch hands were at the next ranch. They were helping their neighbors, the Johnsons, who were sick. The Johnsons were the nearest neighbors, but their ranch was a day's ride away.

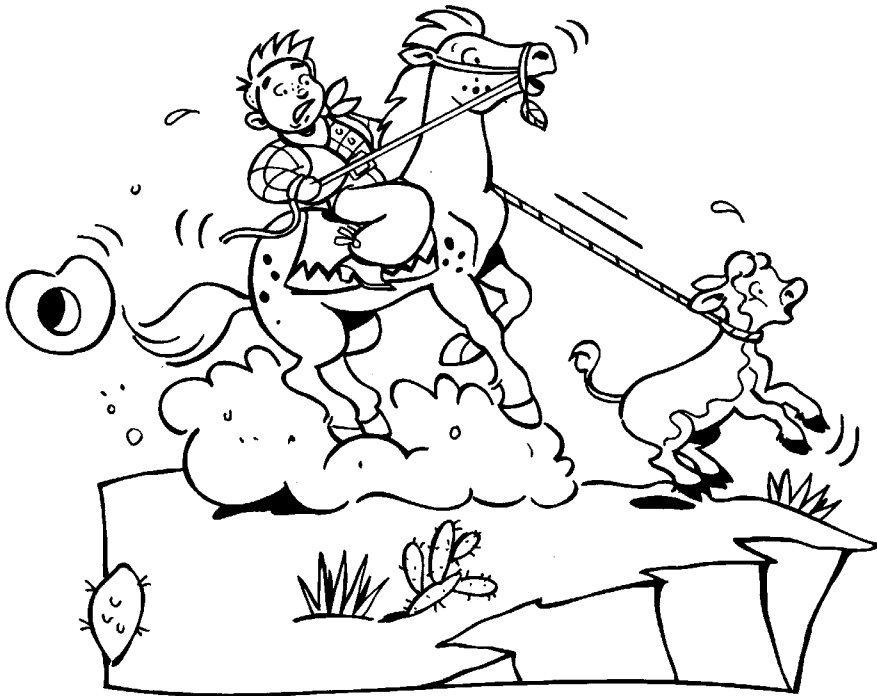
Just then, Tommy noticed a little calf had wandered off. It was in danger of falling off a steep cliff. Tommy quickly grabbed a lasso that was hanging on a post. He rode toward the calf as fast as he could.



When he was near enough, Tommy twirled the lasso above his head. Then he threw the rope at the calf. He caught it on the first try. The circle of rope landed around the baby cow's neck. Tommy was able to pull it to safety.

Tommy took the calf back to its mother.

"Thank you, thank you," said Mrs. James, the rancher's wife. "You are a true cowboy."



Tommy told Mrs. James that his friends were in the hills on the other side of the canyon.

Mrs. James said, "My son, Glen, will pick them up in the wagon. When they get here, we'll all have a delicious steak dinner."